

U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT EXILE PRESS RELEASE

May 20, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. CHRISTOPHER HOOVER

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that on May 19, 2004 Christopher Hoover, age 30, of 134 Melville St., Rochester, New York, was found guilty, following a jury trial conducted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bret A. Puscheck, before the Honorable Charles J. Siragusa, United States District Court Judge, of conspiracy to possess and possessing crack cocaine with the intent distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) and 846, and unlawfully possessing four firearms, (2 handguns and 2 long guns), as a convicted felon and in the furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(c). The defendant faces a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment and a \$2,000,000 fine. Sentencing was set for August 20, 2004.

The conviction stems from the execution of a search warrant on December 18, 2002, by members of the Rochester Police Department and agents from the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, at 378 Parsells Avenue. During the search, officers found a semiautomatic handgun, revolver, .22 rifle, 12 gauge shotgun, and 148 bags of crack cocaine. The verdict was reached after eight hours of deliberations over two days.

The conviction was the culmination of a Project Exile investigation on the part of the Rochester Violent Crimes Task Force, composed of law enforcement personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Michael Lawandus, the Rochester Police Department, Special Investigation Section, under the direction of Police Chief Robert Duffy, the United States Marshal's Service under the direction of U.S. Marshal Peter A. Lawrence, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office under the direction of Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn, and the New York State Attorney General's Office under the direction of Deputy Chief Richard Soule.

Project Exile is a special initiative announced in the City of Rochester on September 29, 1998 to end the culture of violence in the Rochester community. Under Project Exile, cases involving illegal firearms and drugs are prosecuted in Federal Court to take advantage of the stiffer penalties under the Federal gun laws and sentencing guidelines.
